



Allandale Neighbor

April 2020
Vol 35, Issue 2

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE:

At this point,
**NO Neighborhood
Garage Sale in May or
beyond.** Stay tuned here,
and the website, for a
potential fall date.



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Allandale Neighborhood
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Recycling Right

Kara Kockelman and Diana Wheeler

As the world deals with the global climate crisis, problematic leadership and COVID-19, it's a great time to think about the ways we, as individuals and households, can make wise choices daily. As members of Austin

Zero Waste Neighborhood Leadership (which anyone can join!), we want to share the lessons we have learned over the past years.

The first choice we have is to refuse an item we don't need – like plastic utensils or styrofoam containers at restaurants, or the extra T-shirts, drink koozies, etc.,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

More Recycling from Lettuce Recycle

Dena Houston

Recycling Cheat Sheet for the Blue Bin

1. Nothing smaller than a credit card.
2. No mixed materials (no plastic soap pump with metal spring, no candy wrappers, no orange juice cartons, no paper coffee cups).
3. No contaminated paper products (no wet paper [even if dried out], no pizza boxes, no food product on paper).
4. Nothing that can wrap around sorting machinery or that poses a danger at the recycling facility (no plastic bags, wire coat hangers, rope, garden hoses, hypodermic needles, or aerosol cans with anything in them). Empty aerosol cans DO go into the blue bin.
5. Lid rules: All glass jars need to have

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CodeNEXT and Density Thoughts

Allan McMurtry

In a lawsuit filed in Travis County, Texas, on December 11, 2019, against the City of Austin and its land development code CodeNEXT, the 15 plaintiffs' brief complained that the City of Austin had violated state statutes by failing to give proper notice of the changes by lot

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Thoughts from the Editor

Laura Beck

Neighbors (Friends!),
What a time to be putting together a newsletter. How wild that just two months ago, Corona was only a

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Julie Peckham
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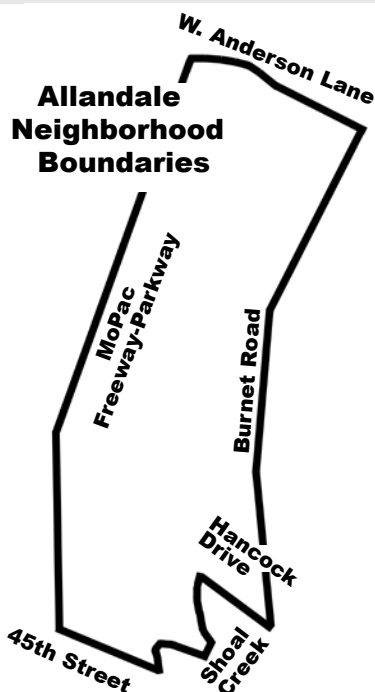
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in March and
September.

Committees

BYLAWS Amanda Cagle
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President's Letter

Diana Wheeler, ANA President, (512) 699-1848, Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

Hello neighbors,
This is a very unsettling time we are living through, but we are a flexible species and a flexible neighborhood. I have personally witnessed many local acts of generosity and I am proud of the difficult but proactive steps we are all taking to keep one another as safe as possible.

The cancelled ANA meeting on April 1 was meant to be a general membership meeting. We pushed the general membership meeting to the regularly scheduled ANA meeting on May 6. However, it's almost certain that it will not be safe to gather in large groups by May 6, so we are making contingency plans for an online Zoom meeting instead. We will keep everyone updated with posts on our website and to the email listserve.

I want to use "my" section of the newsletter to properly introduce my fellow board members. There are 12 total board members, and I will highlight four now and the rest in subsequent newsletters.

Please let me introduce our newest board member, Janis Reinken, as well as Joe Parsons, Julie Peckham, and Steve Johnson:

Janis Reinken joined the board in February, 2020, and she is heading up a special committee to get the neighborhood deed restrictions uploaded online. She earned her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University and her law degree from the University of Texas. She began her legal career with the City of Abilene, serving as a municipal prosecutor and advising city boards and commissions. She returned to Austin in 1988, and in

1992 became a neighbor and friend of the late, great Phyllis Brinkley, the "Mayor of Allandale." Janis has helped with the Fourth of July parade and the Burnet Road Business Association, and has served 15 years as election judge for Precinct 239. She has been legal counsel for state agencies, and spent 14 years mediating malpractice lawsuits and presenting legal education programs for lawyers on behalf of a professional liability insurer and the State Bar of Texas.

Before her recent retirement, she served six legislatures at the capitol, including five sessions as chief of staff for a house member appointed to the Appropriations and Transportation Committees, and one session as chief clerk for the chair of the House Corrections Committee. She is proud that both of these public servants were honored among the Texas Monthly top ten legislators.

Janis serves on the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Collaborative Council. She and her husband, Doug Hastey, love the Allandale sense of community. Janis agreed to serve on the ANA Board, expressing her intent to be a "catalyst for good for the neighborhood." She hopes to help increase ANA membership, and help the board serve as an effective sounding board for its Members.

Joe Parsons joined the board in September, 2019, and he serves on the Membership Committee and the Zoning & Planning Committee. He is a native Austinite, a graduate of Austin High School, and an Allandale resident since 2009. He has been a teacher, a carpenter, a bus

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Recycling Right

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

that we are regularly offered but might not actually need. We also don't need to accept bags at stores or water bottles at events, since we have so many from past purchases. Please keep reminding your family members, friends, and colleagues about this. It's an easy way to cut your waste stream by 20 percent.

The next choice is to **reduce** what we consume. Our households, businesses, and gyms should be working to use shampoos, lotions, and toothpastes to the last drop, and applying all sorts of fixes to extend the useful life of so many items. Stop worrying about what others think about the age of our cars and trucks, our phones, furniture and clothing. It's easy to buy high-quality used clothing and footwear in local resale shops. The selection and variety is often more extensive than what you find in regular stores.

The next step is to **re-use**. On the Internet you can find lots of creative ideas for your specific items.

And, of course, we also have **recycling!** So how does one recycle right here in Austin and most anywhere in the world? It's important to be an educated recycler, because trying to include items that can't be accepted risks the entire truckload being designated as trash. It doesn't require getting all the peanut butter out of a jar or removing the clear windows in mail you've been sent. However, it does require being aware of exactly what will and won't be accepted by your local recycling program. It's also recommended to remove liquids and clean off excessive foods (especially the kind that will feed an opossum family, since they climb into trash cans and end up getting killed in the recycling process). It also requires that we don't recycle soft plastic, which gums up the expensive recycling machinery and can cause operations to shut down. Save your soft plastic for the grocery store bag drops.

If you have any questions about what is/isn't accepted, please check the website of your local area recycler. Here is the webpage of Austin Resource Recovery's frequently asked questions: <https://austintexas.gov/content/1358/faq/10891> ☞

More Recycling from Lettuce Recycle

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their lids removed. Keep all plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers. All separate lids smaller than a credit card go into the trash. All separate lids larger than a credit card go into the blue bin.

Please Remember – When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do. ☞

CodeNEXT and Density Thoughts

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and failing to provide accurate information about protesting a zoning change that would require a three-fourths vote of the City Council to approve the changes.

The case, Cause No. D-11-GN-19-008617 was heard March 11, 2020, in the 201st District Court under Judge Jan Soifer. She ruled on March 18, 2020, as follows:

1. The City must send notice to all property owners whose property is having its zoning changed and to property owners within 200 feet of such property OR upon a two-thirds vote of the City Council may prescribe alternate notice of time and place of a joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission;
2. The City's vote on the first and second reading of the current CodeNEXT are void;
3. Plaintiffs have protest rights under 211.006(d) Texas Local Government Code;
4. The City must not tell property owners that protest rights are not applicable;

5. The City must affirmatively inform property owners and surrounding owners of their rights;

Further, the City must refrain from:

1. Refusing to recognize and accept citizens' protest rights;
2. Refusing to require a three-fourths majority of all City Council members to adopt a zoning change for any property that has been protested by owners under Code 211.066(d)

The City has refused to comply with Texas Local Government Code, and that is the reason the judge ordered that they comply. The City violated both city and state laws in the process of trying to approve CodeNEXT, as City ordinances mandate notice as well. The plaintiffs delivered to the court over 14,000 signatures opposing rezoning of their own property.

As everybody can see, over the last month a growing number of Allandale citizens are working from home, their kids playing in yards and streets or walking or riding bikes. One of the main culprits in the spread of COVID-19 is density. Spacing is critical to our ability to combat this disease. The lot sizes that Austin currently enjoys citywide is a blessing in this fight, not a curse.

It is imperative to note that as of the end of February, 2020, the City was issuing permits for dwelling units at the highest rate ever seen in Austin, and at a rate that would accommodate more people than the City demographer projected for Austin between now and 2030.

CodeNEXT was and is a vehicle for profits, not a vehicle of affordable housing. The coronavirus is not the only disease that will issue forth in a crowded world. Perhaps next time we will be better prepared, but illegally passing a law to allow four dwelling units on each lot in Austin's neighborhoods is not progress toward achieving the health, safety, and welfare of Austinites. ☞

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a Wave on all those Walks! :)

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Thoughts from the Editor

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watered-down beer in most of our minds. And here we are, in an upside-down world. It is times like this, perhaps, that we value and appreciate Allandale even more. My family of four, closer together than we have been for years, talk about #CoronaPositives. Yes, this unfortunate phrasing can lead people to worry about our health, but we really mean good things that have come from this time.

Surely, seeing each other, walking, and

biking in the neighborhood more than usual is one of those positives. I have loved stopping and chatting. I have cherished stop-bys at the end of my driveway. I have laughed at us giving each other a “wide berth” when we pass on the street. I have admired neighbors marking off six-foot distances for front yard happy hours. My day brightens when I get a smile or wave from one of you, or when I have a chance to give one. My heart has swelled at my 11-year-old taking off on a bike ride or my 15-year-old going for a walk – flashbacks to my own childhood that I

just don't think today's kids do.

Slowing down a bit, coming together as a family, cooking at home, having an actual phone conversation just to catch up, reconnecting with friends over Zoom, taking time to do a puzzle or puzzle over Tiger King, even showering every three (or four) days... all of these are #CoronaPositives for me. I hope you have found some too, and I wish health and safety for all of us in Allandale. Here's to a long happy summer of hugs, high fives, and other closeness we are missing so much right now. ☿

President's Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

driver, a tailor, and a salesman, but mostly he works for the Alamo Drafthouse and is a comedian with Master Pancake Theatre. You can usually find him on his front porch with his wife and two daughters on Richcreek Road.

Julie Peckham joined the board in September, 2019, and she serves on the Parks Committee and is co-chair of the Safety Committee. She was a mere eight months old when her parents moved to Austin and she has spent most of her life here. She attended public schools -- Highland Park Elementary, Murchison Middle School, and Anderson High School -- and then graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in psychology. In 1990, Julie and her husband bought a house in Allandale and they are still living here after raising their three daughters. She loves Northwest Park, the creek, the ease of getting to many places, and having wonderful neighbors. For the past 24 years, Julie has run a small mobile retail business. She joined the ANA Board to be more involved, and she feels blessed to serve with others who are also passionate about making this neighborhood as wonderful as it is.

Steve Johnson joined the board in May, 2019, and he chairs the Communications Committee and serves on the Membership and By-laws Committees. He is a native Austinite from back in the days when kids ran around in the car and strollers were made from metal. Steve graduated, somehow, from Westlake High School before it had a multimillion-dollar arts center and football team. He went on to Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where, to the infinite gratitude of his parents, he graduated in four years. With a degree. Steve currently has been living very happily on Shoal Creek Boulevard since 2009. He has been a technical writer since 1991, currently working for Cisco. Steve's main hobby is photography. If you can find Steve at all, it's likely to be in a bar (after they open back up) or out in the country taking pictures of dilapidated buildings. ☿

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Allandale Outside - Victory Gardens

Faye Holland

My thoughts are with all of us going through this pandemic right now. I am trying to make a particular practice of making sure to wave and say hi to people when I am out walking in the neighborhood. It is so nice to see smiling faces that are not on a screen. This quarantine has been a huge change for everyone. I am so glad to have a job, but mine changed overnight, as have so many other people's. I also feel for all of you with little children and no access to babysitters or family help. I feel for older people, and for those who are living alone. Know that we neighbors do want to help.

But within all of this, all of us in Allandale are lucky. We all do have access to some sort of outdoor space. Most of us have a yard or a patio where we can grow things. This is the perfect time to plant and play in the dirt. Try to plant some of the seeds from your vegetables that you are getting from the grocery. There are so

many searches on Pinterest to look up and find ways to regrow celery, or try to grow an orange tree or start an avocado tree. Many of us have time to experiment.

According to PBS NewsHour, as a country, we waste 40 percent of the food that we grow every year! This is something that I know I need to work on. (Hopefully the people hoarding groceries aren't going to throw them out later.) Meal planning or eating leftovers can really help the pocketbook, too.

If you want to help even more with your food budget, plant a garden. I wish I was finding more time to work in the yard. I think this is the year to devote more space to growing food in my front yard. It is not revolutionary or new at all. During World War I and II, growing food was one way that the public was asked to help with the war effort. There is a super-cool fenced-off remnant of a "Victory Garden" at the park on the corner of Spicewood Springs Road and Old Spicewood Springs Road. I always stop and read the sign when we hike there. Check it out. What should our growing number

of household gardens be called during the 2020 Corona Crisis?

This is the perfect time to plant! The Travis County Master Gardening Guide says to plant peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes until mid-month. Then the rest of the month it suggests to plant beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, melons, peanuts, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tomatillo, or watermelon. It is also time to plant the best July vegetable in Austin -- one of the only ones that will still grow and produce in our 100-degree days -- OKRA! If you have only ever had cooked okra, you are missing out. Raw okra picked right off the plant is so delicious. I have been known to have an okra breakfast some mornings. As an added bonus, the flowers are beautiful!

If vegetable gardens aren't your thing, plant some flowers or some herbs. Fresh herbs are easy and fun to grow in a pot right by your door. There is nothing like being able to bring a bouquet of zinnias to a friend's house in July when they invite you over for dinner after this all subsides. ☼

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Wizzie Brown

Pollinators

There are many animal pollinators, with most of those being insects. Probably the most well known of pollinator insects are bees, and more specifically, honey bees. Honey bees are pollinators, but only make up a small portion of the bee population around the world. Most bees are solitary and nest in the ground. Solitary bees are not aggressive and many are stingless, so people should not be afraid of them.

Butterflies and moths are also impor-



tant pollinators. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction and other factors, their populations are on the decline. If you want to provide habitat for butterflies and moths, you need to ensure that you fulfill the requirements of all their life stages. Host plants are needed for egg-laying and caterpillar feeding; nectar plants are needed for adult feeding; and overwintering sites are needed for various stages.

Flies are an often-overlooked pollinator. With their poor reputation for carrying diseases, many people consider flies to be pests. Flies can be beneficial by fitting into food webs, breaking down waste material, feeding on other insects (some species), and pollinating plants (including some food crops such as apples and peppers).

Ideas to help conserve pollinators:



- Plant native plants that provide nectar blooms spring, summer, and fall
 - Provide a variety of colors
 - Provide a variety of flower/bloom shapes
 - Provide multiple levels of plants (groundcover, shrubs, trees, etc.)
 - Plant in clumps of the same plant to make it easier for pollinators to find
- Reduce turf and replace with flowering plants

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- Plant native bunch grasses to provide food and shelter for insects
- Allow fallen leaves to remain on property to provide shelter
- Create areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees (choose sunny areas that will provide dry soil)
- Use IPM (integrated pest management) to reduce pesticide use
- Provide water in a safe manner for insects
 - Provide a variety of plant colors to attract a diversity of pollinators
 - Use shallow dishes with rocks, stones, sand, or some substrate to allow insects to drink without drowning

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at (512) 854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com ☼





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Allandale Eating - Eating "Out" During a Pandemic

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

I was planning my usual duo of restaurant reviews for this issue, but my-oh-my, how the world has changed. With this rapidly developing pandemic, eating out is, at least at the time I wrote this column, sadly out. As an eater-outer and food reviewer, it's, well, hard to review a place when you can't eat there!

Also sad are the economic impacts of the pandemic, especially to the service industry. According to Eater, there are 15.6 million people who work in one million restaurants in the United States. According to KXAN, more than 50 percent of the food consumed by Texans comes from the about 55,000 restaurants in the state, restaurants that (according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) employ almost 400,000 people. The Austin Chronicle lists 2,133 restaurants in Austin (not including large national chains), which equates to more than 59,000 employees (based on normalized Texas-wide per-restaurant numbers from the Texas Restaurant Association).

With the city, county, and state putting a stop to in-restaurant dining, eateries are scrambling to respond. Jack Gilmore, he of Jack Allen's and Salt Traders, decided to shut down his establishments until this all blows over, resulting in the layoff of 500 employees. Others are trying to make ends meet and support as many employees as possible (and provide us food!) with drive-through, curbside, take-out, and delivery orders. Either way you look at it, this is hard on our restaurants, most of which are mom-and-pop shops. According to the New York Times, some analysts believe that as many as 75 percent of res-



Proper social distancing while waiting for take-out at the Peached Tortilla

taurants might not make it through this creeping disaster without assistance from landlords and the government.

One way you can help is by using the take-out and delivery options from your favorite food slingers. We've done this to support -- so far -- Eastside Pies, Foreign & Domestic, Tacodeli, the Peached Tortilla, Trudy's North Star, and Zen. All have provided food at their usual level of quality and deliciousness. With the governor allowing the take-out and delivery of alcohol, we even enjoyed Trudy's classic Mexican martinis delivered to our door. I have to admit, we found the normalcy of sipping Trudy's Mexican martinis more comforting than we imagined.

Although there have not been any cases of the virus being transmitted through food, take-out and delivery is not risk free (but then again, what is these days?). Nonetheless, it's worth noting that restau-

rants already have to follow food safety requirements (check an establishment's health department review at the city) as well as extra COVID-19 precautions. It's probably best to get cooked items only, and to be careful with the packaging. We've considered the risk for our age group and decided that, for the time being, we'll partake of take-out and delivery. If we were older, we might not.

UberEats and DoorDash (and others such as GrubHub, Favor, and Instacart) offer hands-off transactions where you order and pay online, and then pick your food up from your stoop. UberEats has even suspended delivery fees for more than 100,000 independent restaurants across the country with DoorDash offering similar benefits. And both delivery services and Instacart are now providing



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sick leave for established couriers—important to prevent people who have to work to pay the bills from showing up ill. If you can afford it, tip mightily to keep these restaurants and delivery services

humming. These good folks are also at risk doing their day-to-day jobs. And consider this: If you're eating take-out or delivery, you're not eating your home stash. Visit CultureMap Austin, the Aus-

tin Chronicle, and www.takeouttracker.com for a list of restaurants still cooking. In my experience so far, it's more likely than not that your favorite place is still making food. ☼

Quick Bites

Robert Mace

Before the pandemic, in far simpler times, we still had restaurant news; so here we go! William Ankeney of Tiny Pies appeared on Food Network's Chopped Sweet in February (Tiny Pies is still delivering). Roberto Espinosa of Tacodeli was invited to a (now canceled) taco party at the Beard House in New York (Tacodeli is still slinging). Speaking of James Beard, Bryce Gilmore of Barley Swine was oddly (and criminally) not nominated for the new Texas category despite six consecutive years of being nominated for the broader Southwest award (closed while considering take-out service). Be More Pacific brought its Filipino cuisine to a second location in the Heights down in Houston (open for take-out and delivery).

Trudy's has pulled itself (literally) from

the ashes of bankruptcy and is back in operation after looking touch-and-go (providing take-out and delivery). The Pit Barbeque at 4707 Burnet Road is now Big O's Pit BBQ (open for take-out) under the new ownership and management of Orlando Arriaga, owner of Taco Shack (open for take-out). I was able to enjoy a plate of brisket and sausage before the coronavirus took off and found it to be really dang good (review coming in a future issue). The Best Taste of Pho Saigon (not to be confused with Pho Saigon over on Lamar Boulevard) is now open at 5222 Burnet Road, and has been getting rave reviews for food and service on Yelp (appears to be open for take-out and delivery). Tea Amo at 2525 West Anderson Lane (on the east side of the mall) is now open serving up boba and other items (appears to be open for take-out and delivery). Jan Chi Korean BBQ opened at 3808 Spicewood Springs Road in the for-

mer space of Hai Ky (open for take-out and delivery).

A number of places are still upcoming. Kitchen United Mix at 8023 Burnet Road, a workspace for to-go only food, appears closer to opening (shame they haven't opened already, since we now live in a to-go-only world). Backspace (1745 West Anderson Lane), Rise (at the Grove), Tatsumi (in the former Red Pepper), Tony C's (2900 West Anderson Lane), and Old Thousand (4805 Burnet Road) are still under development or construction. Three Little Bears Clubhouse, an indoor sports and recreation spot serving, at the very least, wine and beer, is going in at 2900 West Anderson Lane. The old Nighthawk/Frisco has sat empty for a while, but now there appears to be some activity: Norris Design filed a pre-plan development consultation with the city in February to review heritage trees

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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Quick Bites

Continued from page 11



Kitchen United Mix is coming soon.

on the site, suggesting a serious redevelopment. The owner of the property at 7113 Burnet Road, present home of The Local Post and Austin Kolache and Koffee, among others, has applied to the city for a zoning change to MF-6 for a proposed project of 360 residential units.

The (hopefully) disease-free eaters at Eater Austin gave props to Phonatic (open for take-out and delivery) and Honest Mary's (open for take-out) as part of "13 Austin Restaurants Perfect for Vegetarians," and tagged Rose-dale Kitchen and Bar (open for take-out and delivery) as among the "8 Hottest New Brunches in Austin Right Now." Thrillist included District Bar + Kitchen (open for curbside) of "Where to Eat a Badass Brunch in 13 Austin Neighborhoods" and shouted out to Draught House (closed), Pinthouse Pizza (open for take-out and delivery), and Growler Room (open for take-out) as "The Best Beer Bars in Austin Right Now." Check websites and FaceBook for the latest on food availability. ☼

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Gullett Good News

Gwynne Ellen Ash



In light of local and state social distancing measures, our Geckos have stayed home since Friday, March 13. Schools in AISD are closed indefinitely.

On Monday, March 23, teachers snaked their way through the neighborhood in a car parade to say hello to students. Kids observed social distancing and waved to their teachers and cheered.

On Monday, April 6, online schooling will begin at level one, followed by level two the following Monday. Individual teachers should be communicating with parents about what that means by grade level.

See Konstella for the latest up-to-date information. Thank you from Gullett, the school at the heart of Allandale. For information, always go to <https://gullett-geckos.com/> ☼

All About Lamar

Rick Schumacher



Honestly Scotties, I really don't know what to write for this article. The world has turned a bit upside-down, but we can still have dinner delivered to our doorstep. Everything has changed but we can still binge-watch *Brooklyn-99* on Hulu. There is a sense of the surreal in our every day. Nothing will ever be quite the same, but we will carry on.

One way we will carry on is through school. As of the writing of this article, AISD facilities will be closed indefinitely,

so we assume through end of the school year/summer.

Online education began on April 6. Please make sure your students are checking Blend (portal.austinisd.org) for important updates. Families with technical issues are asked to contact the Parent Support Line at (512) 414-9187, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parents can also access Blend. For a walkthrough, please go to <http://bit.ly/BLENDparent-TOUR>.

Speaking of technology, AISD is providing district issued Chromebooks.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/190OvKheL5IMEGbDl_saFJ3WS-BeLRdmUpUzge8owKC4A/viewform?edit_requested=true.

The State of Texas has cancelled the 2020 STAAR test.

And now for a little normal:

Make sure to order your yearbook through Jostens (www.jostens.com)! If you run into any questions or concerns, reach out to William Mangum at william.mangum@austinisd.org.

If you are interested in serving on the 2020-21 Campus Advisory Board, more information can be found at <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/cac>.

Those eighth- graders who are planning to go to McCallum next year need to work on their ninth-grade choice sheets. More information can be found at www.maccounselors.com

As I mention in most of my articles, please take care of your health, both mental and physical, during these trying times. If there are issues in your house, there is nothing wrong in seeking professional help. That's it for now. Remember to keep your distance and wash your hands until we can get back to normal. ☼

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Kristin Knifton



Well, what can we say? First of all, our hearts go out to the entire Mac community, especially the senior class of 2020. This is not the way any of us envisioned ending our school year. As of the day of this writing (April 4), Mac classes, along with the rest of AISD, are slated to start online Monday, April 6. I think I speak for all parents when I say that we appreciate so incredibly much the dedication of the Mac faculty and staff as they prepare to enter a new frontier of learning. School will be online indefinitely; one can only hope that students will be able to return to school in some form prior to the end of this school year.

I want to send a special shout-out to the senior class. As a senior parent, we are all grieving alongside you. You are missing prom, banquets, and celebrations. This is NOT FAIR and we share in your disappointment. I also want to say, we are so proud of you and all other Mac kids! You are staying home, you are social distancing, and we know it is really, really hard. Way to step up to the plate, kids!

Also, as a senior parent, I want to assure you that we will find a way to celebrate you and your accomplishments! I don't know yet what that will look like, but stay tuned. We will figure this out together. Anyone who wants to join a virtual Senior Parent Committee, please reach out to me at kristin78756@yahoo.com. We've got to plan the Gullett senior walk (car parade?) and so much more for our deserving graduates.

For all information about AISD's online learning and supports available to families, please visit <https://www.austinisd.org/covid19>.

And, as always, to get more frequent updates about MAC happenings, you may check the website (mccallumhs.com), the award-winning Mac Journalism online at macshieldonline.com, or follow Mac Journalism on Instagram. ☼



Allandale Real Estate Roundup

Debbie Trominski, REALTOR, Broker Associate

You might be wondering about how COVID-19 is impacting the real estate market and I am here to keep you up to date with the projections on industry shifts as we navigate this unprecedented event. The source of my information is largely Lawrence Yun, he is one of the nation's top economists and is the Chief Economist for the National Association of Realtors.

I'd like to share that the economy has much stronger fundamentals now than it did during the great recession of 2008. Before COVID-19 took over our lives, we were having a very strong year in the real estate sector with another record-breaking month that took place during February. There is an ongoing shortage of inventory that isn't going away and nationwide it's estimated that we have a housing shortage of 4.5 million units. Also, our real estate market is built on strong loans unlike the

subprime mortgages that precipitated the 2008 meltdown. The government stimulus and mortgage forbearances will help keep us afloat.

Assuming we get the all clear in the next month or two to resume normal activities, we are poised to recover quickly after an anticipated V-shaped dip in the market. The pent-up demand that is currently sitting on the sidelines will go back into the market to make up for lost time. As an industry, we are expecting the spring busy season to slide into late summer and early fall. The 2nd half of 2020 and into 2021 has strong growth potential.

This is a temporary situation and it too shall pass.

According to the Austin Board of Realtors' results for February, activity in Allandale has been strong. Over the last 12 months, Allandale home prices averaged out at \$736,913.

That's up from \$722,635 in 2019 and from \$638,635 in 2018. Meanwhile, the number of days homes are on the market, on average, has declined from 32 days in 2018 and 2019 to 31 in the past 12 months. The number of homes sold increased from 134 in 2019 to 136 in the past 12 months. The number of closed sales was up 63% in February 2020 compared to February 2019. ☺



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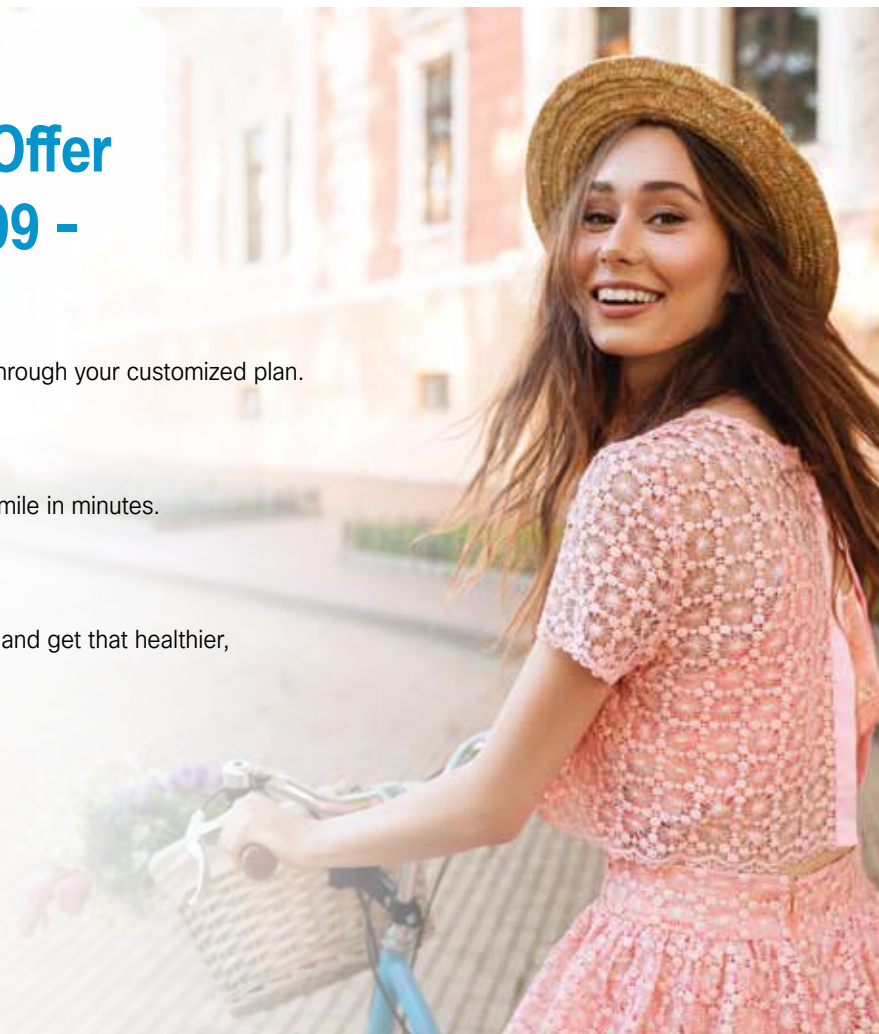
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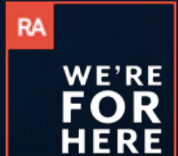


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